

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Original)** A device for planting a plurality of bulbs of plants, the device comprising:
 - (a) a container having an exterior and including a bottom wall and a sidewall extending upward from said bottom wall and defining an opening; and
 - (b) a rodent deterrent secured to at least a portion of said exterior of said container.
2. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, further including a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from the plurality of bulbs.
3. **(Original)** A device according to claim 2, wherein said closure comprises a grid.
4. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said rodent deterrent comprises seashell fragments.
5. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, wherein said bottom wall and said sidewall each comprise elongate biodegradable fibers.
6. **(Original)** A device according to claim 5, wherein said elongate biodegradable fibers are bonded to one another with a bonding agent.
7. **(Original)** A device according to claim 6, wherein said bonding agent is latex rubber.
8. **(Original)** A device according to claim 5, wherein said elongate biodegradable fibers are coir.
9. **(Original)** A device according to claim 1, further comprising a growth-enhancer.
10. **(Previously Presented)** A device according to claim 9, wherein said growth-enhancer is a fungus.

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the bulbs have roots and said bottom wall is configured to allow the roots to penetrate therethrough when they grow.
12. (Currently amended) A system for growing a plurality of bulb plants in a cluster in a first soil, said bulb plants having a plurality of roots, comprising:
 - (a) a container comprising a preformed free-standing wall and defining a cavity, said freestanding wall comprising biodegradable fibers, said container further comprising a bottom that includes biodegradable fibers defining a plurality of openings sized to allow the plurality of roots to grow therethrough;
 - (b) a second soil contained within said cavity; and
 - (c) a plurality of bulbs of plants contained within said second soil;
wherein said container has an exterior and the system further comprises a rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to inhibit a rodent from gnawing through said biodegradable fibers when said container is planted in the first soil.
13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said cavity has an opening and the system further includes a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from said plurality of bulbs.
14. (Canceled).
15. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said biodegradable fibers are bonded to one another with a bonding agent.
16. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein said bonding agent is latex rubber.
17. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein said biodegradable fibers are coir.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 12, further comprising a growth-enhancer attached to said container for enhancing the growth of the plants sprouting from said plurality of bulbs.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A container for containing soil and a plurality of bulbs of plants, comprising:

- (a) a preformed freestanding wall made of a biodegradable material and defining a cavity for receiving the plurality of bulbs; and
- (b) a nutritive growth-enhancer attached to said wall for enhancing the growth of the plants sprouting from the plurality of bulbs.

21. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 20, wherein said nutritive growth-enhancer is ground-up seashells.

22. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 20, wherein said nutritive growth-enhancer is a fungus.

23. (Original) A container according to claim 20, wherein said cavity has an opening and the system further includes a closure substantially closing said opening, said closure having a plurality of apertures configured to receive therethrough the plants that sprout from the plurality of bulbs.

24. (Currently amended) A method of planting a cluster of flowering bulb plants, comprising the step of:

- (a) providing an assembly comprising:
 - (i) a container that includes a preformed freestanding wall comprising a biodegradable material, said container having a cavity;
 - (ii) a first soil contained in said cavity; and
 - (iii) a plurality of plant bulbs planted in said first soil; and
- (b) planting said assembly in a second soil;

wherein said container has an exterior and said assembly further comprises a rodent deterrent attached to said exterior so as to inhibit a rodent from gnawing through said biodegradable material when said container is planted in said second soil.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of deterring a rodent from accessing said cavity.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said cavity has an opening and the method further comprises the step of providing a closure that deters a rodent from entering said cavity through said opening.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of releasing a growth enhancer from said container.

Claims 28-32 (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said rodent deterrent is distributed over substantially all of said exterior.

34. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein said rodent deterrent is a particulate.

35. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein said bottom wall includes an exterior surface and said rodent deterrent is distributed over substantially the entirety of said exterior surface.

36. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein said bottom wall and said side wall are made such that a rodent can gnaw therethrough and said rodent deterrent deters the rodent from gnawing through said bottom wall and said side wall.

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